

INTERMENT IN TOWNS.—ST. MATTHEW, FRIDAY STREET.

THE frightful proceedings in respect of clearing out the "cellar" in Friday-street, recently brought before the public, will prove, it is to be hoped, another considerable blow to the present destructive system. They fully bear out the often repeated statements and assertions of Mr. G. A. Walker, which have exposed him to abuse instead of obtaining for him reward.

Mr. Parry, to whom our readers are indebted for, perhaps, the greatest amount of statistics in connection with the city churchyards that has yet appeared, writes to us as follows:—

Sir,—The very striking exposure which has just occurred at one of the city churches, will, I trust, exempt some brief remarks by the undersigned from the exclamation "*Ecce iterum crispinus!*"

The writer was aware that *St. Matthew, Friday-street*, containing with another about 600 inhabitants, *Bow church*, three parishes, with about 900, and some others, according to a *Times* correspondent ten or twelve, were without any churchyards at all: and perhaps general burial in vaults may be worse than slight external covering with continual disturbance. At Friday-street, where the writer was present at the funeral of the benevolent Rev. Mr. Hatch some years back, the vaults are descended by two wooden trap doors within the church. Granting, however, that the defence of the churchwardens is correct, that a large proportion of the dreadful load must have been brought from elsewhere, this only proves the extent of the system.

However, this frightful event is one of those "thunder-storms which clear the air." There must be early a better system, both of prohibition and provision.

PAPER-HANGINGS.*

THREE kinds of paper-hangings have for some time past been much used on account of their beautiful appearance and their moderate price. The first and plainest is that which has on it figures printed or drawn either with one or more colours. The second sort contains figures covered with some woolly stuff pasted over them; and the third, instead of woolly stuff, is ornamented with a substance that has the glittering brightness of gold and silver. It appears that the idea of covering walls with parti-coloured paper might have readily occurred, but the fear of such hangings being liable to speedy decay may have prevented the experiment from being made. In my opinion the simplest kind was invented after the more ingenious, that is to say, when the woolly or velvet kind was already in use. The preparation of them has a great affinity to the printing of cotton. Wooden blocks of the like kind are employed for both; plates of copper are also used; and sometimes they are painted after patterns. Artists possess the talent of giving them such a resemblance to striped and flowered silks and cottons, that one is apt to be deceived by them on the first view. Among the most elegant hangings of this kind, may be reckoned those which imitate so exactly every variety of marble, porphyry, and other species of stones, that when the walls of an apartment are neatly covered with them, the best connoisseur may not without close examination be able to discover the deception. That the resemblance may be still greater, a hall may be divided by an architect into different compartments by pillars, so as to have the appearance of a grand piece of regular architecture. Whether M. Breithopf, at Leipsic, was the inventor of this kind of hangings, I do not know, but it is certain that he brought it to great perfection.

The second kind, or, as it is called, velvet-paper (now called flock-paper), is first printed like the former, but the figures are afterwards wholly, or in part, covered with a kind of glue, over which is strewn some woolly substance, reduced almost to dust, so that by these means they acquire the appearance of velvet or plush. The ground and the rest of the figures are left plain; but the whole process is so complex that it is impossible to convey a proper idea of it by a short description. The shearings of fine white cloth, which the artist procures from a

cloth manufactory, and dyes to suit his work, are employed for this purpose. If they are not fine enough, he renders them more delicate by making them pass through a close hair-sieve. This, as well as the third kind, was formerly made much more than at present upon canvas; and, in my opinion, the earliest attempts towards this art were tried, not upon paper, but on linen cloth. The paper procured at first for these experiments was probably too weak; and it was not till a later period that means were found out to strengthen and stiffen it by size and paste.

The invention of velvet-paper is by several French writers ascribed to the English; and, if they are not mistaken, it was first made known in the reign of Charles I. On the 1st of May, 1634, an artist, named Jerome Lanyer, received a patent for this art, in which it is said that he had found out a method of affixing wool, silk, and other materials of various colours upon linen cloth, silk, cotton, leather, and different substances with oil, size, and cements, so that they could be employed for hangings as well as for other purposes. The inventor wished to give to this new article the name of *Londrindiana*, which appears, however, not to have continued in use. It is worthy of remark, that this artist first made attempts to affix silk upon some ground; but that method, as far as I know, was not brought to perfection; that he employed for the ground, linen and cotton cloth, or leather; and that no mention is made of his having used paper, though he seems not to have confined himself entirely to leather or cloth.

Tierce, a Frenchman, has, however, disputed this invention with the English; for he asserts that one of his countrymen at Rouen, named François, made such kinds of printed paper-hangings so early as the year 1620 and 1630, and supports his assertion by the patterns and wooden blocks which are still preserved with the above-mentioned years inscribed on them. He is also of opinion, that some Frenchmen, who fled to England when persecuted for their religion, carried this art along with them. The inventor's son followed this business to a great extent for more than fifty years at Rouen, and died in 1748. Some of his workmen went privately to the Netherlands and Germany, where they sold their art; and the French, therefore, with great confidence maintain, without knowing our artists and their works, that foreigners in this branch of manufacture are still far behind them. In most works of the kind my countrymen, indeed, are only imitators, not through want of talents to invent or to improve, but because our great people, for whom they must labour, consider nothing as fashionable or beautiful, except what has been first made by the French or the English.

I shall here observe, that Nemeitz ascribes the invention of wax-cloth-hangings, with wool chopped and beat very fine (these are his own words), to a Frenchman named Audran, who in the beginning of the last century was an excellent painter in arabesque and grotesque figures, and inspector of the palace of Luxembourg at Paris, in which he had a manufactory for hangings of that kind. What particular service he rendered to the art of making paper-hangings, I have not, however, been able to learn. Equally uncertain and defective is the information of Von Heinecken, that one Eccard invented the art of imprinting on paper-hangings gold and silver figures, and carried on a manufactory for such works.

In regard to the time when these hangings began to be made in Germany, I can only say that the oldest information I know respecting them is to be found in a work by Andrew Glorez von Mahren, printed for the first time in 1670. It shews that the art was then very imperfect as well as little known, and that it was practised only by women upon linen for making various small articles.*

One of the most ingenious new improve-

* The author says, "I shall give an account of a beautiful art, by which one may cover chairs, screens, and other articles of the like kind, with a substance of various colours made of wool, cut or chopped very fine, and cleaned by being made to pass through a hair-sieve." "I remember that two Swabian women travelled about through some countries, and taught people this art, by which means they gained a good deal of money." Of the author I have been able to procure no information. His book is a compilation selected without any taste, and according to the ideas of the 17th century, from different writers, almost always without mentioning the sources from which the articles are taken; but it deserves a place in public libraries, because it contains here and there some things which may help to illustrate the history of agriculture and the arts.

ments in the art of manufacturing these hangings, consists in bestrewn them here and there with a glittering metallic dust or sand, by which they acquire a resemblance to rich gold and silver brocade. From the above-quoted work it appears that artists began very early to cover some parts of paper-hangings with silver-dross or gold foil; but as real gold was too dear to be used for that purpose, and as imitations of it soon decayed, this method seems not to have been long continued. Instead of these, Nuremberg metallic dust as well as silver-coloured foil are employed. Metallic dust is the invention of an artist at Nuremberg, named John Hautsch, who constructed also a carriage which could be moved by the person who sat in it. He was born in the year 1595, and died in 1670. His descendants have continued to the present time the preparation of the metallic dust, which is exported in large quantities from Nuremberg, and is used in shell-work, lackered-ware, and for various other purposes. It is prepared by sifting the filings of different metals, washing them in a strong lye, and then placing them on a plate of iron or copper over a strong fire, where they are continually stirred till their colour is altered. Those of tin acquire by this process every shade of gold colour, with a metallic lustre; those of copper the different shades of red and flame colour; those of iron and steel become of a blue or violet; and those of tin and bismuth appear of a white or bluish-white colour. The dust, tinged in this manner, is afterwards put through a flating-mill, which consists of two rollers of the hardest steel, like those used by gold and silver wire-drawers, but for the greater convenience a funnel is placed over them. I have in my possession samples of all the above kinds, which have an exceedingly beautiful appearance. This metallic dust is affixed so strongly to paper by means of a cement, that it is almost impossible to detach it without tearing the paper, as is the case with the paper-hangings procured from Aachen. In French, such paper is called *papier avec paillettes*. The lustre of it is so durable that it continues unaltered even on the walls of sitting apartments. The metallic dust, however, has a considerable weight which may undoubtedly injure the paper.

This inconvenience may have induced artists to employ, instead of metallic dust, that silver-coloured mica, which has been long used in the like manner. So early as the seventeenth century the miners at Reichenstein in Silesia collected and sold for that purpose various kinds of mica, even the black, which acquires a gold-colour by being exposed to a strong heat. The nuns of Reichenstein ornamented with it the images which they made, as the nuns in France and other Catholic countries ornamented their *agni dei*, by strewn over them a shining kind of tale. The silver-coloured mica, however, has not such a bright metallic lustre as metallic dust, but it nevertheless has a pleasing effect when strewn upon a white painted ground, and its light thin spangles or scales retain their brightness and adhere to the paper as long as it lasts. At present I am acquainted with no printed information respecting the method of laying on metallic dust and mica, nor do I know where artists procure the latter, which in many countries is indeed not scarce. I shall here observe, that I once saw at Petersburg a kind of Chinese paper, which appeared all over to have a silver-coloured lustre, without being covered with any metallic substance, and which was exceedingly soft and pliable. It bore a great resemblance to paper which has been rubbed over with dry acid of borax. I conjecture that its surface was covered with a soft kind of talc, powdered extremely fine; but as I have none of it in my possession at present, I can give no further account of it.

[The manufacture of this important and elegant substitute for the ancient "hangings" of tapestry has undergone a gradual succession of improvements, and has now reached a high state of beauty and perfection. The patterns on these papers are sometimes produced by stencil plates, but more commonly by blocks, each colour being laid on by a separate block cut in wood or metal upon a plain or tinted ground. The patterns are sometimes printed in varnish or size, and gilt or copper-leaf applied; or bisulphuret of tin is dusted over so as to adhere to the pattern; and in what are called *flock-papers*, dyed wools mixed into

* From Beck's edition of "Beckman's History of Inventions," edited by Dr. Francis and Dr. J. W. Griffith.